

April 2006

Dear Friends:

The 2006 Legislature started fast, accomplished a lot and adjourned early. I believe we made strides in the health care area that had my greatest focus this session and set groundwork for dealing with health care issues next year. Among my top goals as your representative are increasing access to health insurance, while reducing the cost.

We approved a strong package of bills to give prosecutors and law enforcement officers the resources they need to catch and convict the most dangerous sex offenders of children with a 25-year prison sentence and a new felony law for a fifth conviction of DUI that could result in a five-year prison sentence.

The Legislature also passed a supplemental budget that was very difficult for me. There was so much in it I support, including nursing homes, children's insurance, cleanup of the Puget Sound and Hood Canal. But, the additional expenditures earmarked were too much for me to support the budget at the end.

Even though the session is over, my work for the 2nd District never stops. I hope you will continue to contact me about your concerns and I especially hope you'll be able to join me at one of the Town Hall Meetings I have scheduled around the district. That is a very important part of my ability to represent the needs of the people in the 2nd District.

It is an honor for me to represent the people of the 2nd District in Olympia.

Sincerely,



Representative  
Tom Campbell

## State Representative **Tom Campbell** 2nd Legislative District



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# 2006 SESSION REPORT

State Representative  
**TOM CAMPBELL**  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

**TOWN HALL  
MEETINGS!**

**April 29, 2006**

See front cover for details

## State Representative **TOM CAMPBELL**



### 2nd Legislative District



# 2006 SESSION REPORT

Mark your  
calendar:

**TOWN HALL  
MEETINGS**

**April 29, 2006**

**YELM**

Saturday, April 29, 2006 • 10 a.m. – 12 noon  
Yelm City Hall, Council Chambers  
105 Yelm Ave. W, Yelm, WA

**ORTING**

Saturday, April 29, 2006 • 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Orting Multi-Purpose Center  
202 S. Washington Ave., Orting, WA

**GRAHAM**

Saturday, April 29, 2006 • 3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.  
Graham Library  
9202 244th St. E, Graham, WA  
253-847-4030



## ■ Hospital safety makes giant step in the House; stalls in Senate

We got off to a great start this session with a package of health-care safety measures I introduced to focus on hospitals and health-care professionals. I introduced a major bill to force hospitals to deal with the issue of **hospital-acquired infections** (HB 1015). The measure would require all state hospitals to track information on hospital-acquired infections and report their findings to the state Department of Health. Each year across the United States, two-million patients suffer from exposure to infections because of their hospital stay. Of those infected, 90,000 die from that exposure. The bill passed the House with bi-partisan support by a 59-39 vote. But when it reached the Senate, they amended it and said, “let’s study it.”



Another of my bills would require a **background check on health-care professionals** when they apply for a license in Washington (HB 2431). In the House, it received strong support from both sides of the aisle and passed by an 83-13 vote. Again, the Senate amended out the intent of the bill and substituted another study.

Most health-care providers are competent and able practitioners who do a wonderful job and a great service to their patience. But, there are far too many instances of people in the health-care profession with dubious records of success in their backgrounds.

A third bill in the health-care package I sponsored would give the Dept. of Health authority to **immediately suspend the license of practitioners on an emergency basis**, pending a hearing on unprofessional conduct while dealing with their patients (HB 1071).

We’ve all heard about the recent conviction of Dr. Momah, a Federal Way gynecologist, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison for sexual crimes against four patients. Momah continued his practice for two weeks while the medical community decided to summarily suspend his license. This is a strong tool of consumer protections that should have been implemented in his case.

It’s the state’s duty to ensure patient safety by the professionals they license. The bill soared through the House on a 96 ‘yea’ votes to 2’nays.’ It never got out of the Senate.

I have been asked by Gov. Gregoire to serve on a committee this summer to address growing concerns of patient safety in the health-care field. She’s in agreement that the system isn’t functional, and I will work with her to bring about a strong package next session.

## ■ New law allows retired law enforcement officers to carry firearms

On March 14, the governor signed into law my bill to allow qualified retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms.



I introduced House Bill 2951 to allow **a firearms training certificate program for retired officers**. The certificate will allow them to carry a concealed firearm in Washington as well as other destinations in the U.S. as they travel.

I believe there are many times when trained law enforcement officers face a situation that needs to be controlled, such as a crime in progress or criminal on the loose. This new law puts more help for our citizens on the streets in many such situations.

The law, which goes into effect in early June, brings Washington into compliance with the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act. The

new law establishes a training program and standards developed by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. Application would require a background check and an annual license application by those who seek certification.

## ■ Agreement brings regional focus to transportation

This session, we voted to change the way we fund regional transportation in the central Puget Sound area. We approved a Regional Transportation Commission that will look at governance, planning, taxing and investment strategies to develop an integrated region-wide proposal that will blur jurisdiction borders and focus instead on moving people and goods through the region.

I told my colleagues in Olympia that Pierce County has long been a donor county, in that we pay more in taxes for transportation programs than we receive in roads and services. Populous counties spend more while less populated counties get more than they pay for. This program basically says what regions pay for is what they get, rather than a statewide perspective.

I voted for the legislation that benefits the roads and highways in the Puget Sound region.



## Other Transportation issues important to the 2nd District

• **SR 704 – Cross-Base Highway project:**  
One of the most important transportation projects for the 2nd District is the Cross-Base Highway (SR 704) project. Through a number of funding programs, regional, state and federal, we’ve now secured \$41.4 million for the \$250 million project.

The new east-west arterial connecting I-5 and SR 7 will greatly reduce traffic and congestion on SR 7, SR 612, SR 507, the Spanaway Loop Road and 174th Street, South.

Besides congestion relief, the plan promises greater highway safety with full-width lanes, and shoulders. It will separate the roadway from the railroad at Thorne Lane and the new interchange at “A” Street will provide direct access between Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base.

The new six-mile-long highway will provide a direct arterial link in the mid-Pierce County area of Lakewood and DuPont. The first construction will begin next year at the eastern portion interchange with State Route 7.

• **SR 161 Corridor:**  
The SR 161 corridor runs from Eatonville to Puyallup, and continues on to I-5 north of Tacoma. It serves as a main connection for those living in parts of our district with work, shopping and recreation destinations. This project began a year ago and is scheduled for completion this August.

It includes sidewalks, adds illumination, improves business accesses, and includes bus pullouts and mid-block pedestrian crossings along a 2.9 mile section of SR 161. Signals at 120th Street East and 176th Street East will be interconnected to help traffic flow. Roadside storm water treatment and landscaping will also be added. The project’s estimated final construction cost of \$7.8 million is on track with the budget.



On March 14, Gov. Gregoire signed House Bill 2951 to allow qualified retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed weapons. Gov. Gregoire signs the bill, as Rep. Tom Campbell, John Solheim, retired sheriff deputy, Gene Hussey, retired Secret Service Agent, and Lynn Campbell look on.

# State Representative TOM CAMPBELL

## 2006 SESSION REPORT

## ■ \$250,000 for Orting Public Safety Building



The 2006 state supplemental budget includes \$250,000 will provide funds to build Orting’s new Public Safety Building for the Fire and Police Departments. The City of Orting, which owns the property for the structure, raised \$1.7 million.

I commend Orting for this great effort for the much-needed facility. This appropriation, along with all the work the community has put into it, will allow construction to get underway. Orting is a small town that has the fastest growing population in the state. Orting’s population nearly doubled in the decade of 1990 to 2000 – from 2,000 to its current 4,800 citizens. We expect to see that double in the next 10 years.

The current fire department building was built 60 years ago. It’s long passed its ability to contain modern fire-fighting facilities. With this new state-of-the-art facility, no longer will someone have to drive the fire engine out the door before firefighters can get on board.

Last session I was successful in obtaining state funds for the Orting Bridge and the Bridge for Kids. All of these improvements in public safety are especially important because of Orting’s proximity to Mt. Rainier, which makes the city is vulnerable to Lahar, flooding, earthquakes and storm hazards.

## ■ \$75,000 for Rainier Historical Society heating system

In the closing days of the 2006 session, I worked to acquire \$75,000 in the Capital supplemental budget for a new heating system for Rainier’s ‘the old school house’ that now is being used for all local community activities in Rainier. This facility is home to the senior center, arts and crafts programs and children activities. It’s a great facility that needs state assistance so it can continue to be a center of community activities. Last session, we added \$20,000 to fix the roof of the historic structure. I’m pleased we were able to get this help to this wonderful asset to Rainier.

## ■ Early primary means greater accuracy

Washington’s primary elections in September have long been the latest in the country. Some states hold primaries as early as March. Next year, our primary will be moved back from the first Tuesday in September to the **third Tuesday in August**. Close elections, recounts, and slow absentee ballot returns have been a major concern to election officials facing weeks of lead time for preparing the November ballot. This change provides a more realistic time to assure proper and accurate ballot counts.



## ■ Property Tax exemptions for disabled veterans

Another example of House leadership this session was the House’s unanimous passage of my bill to give veterans with 100-percent service-connected disability property tax relief. House Bill 2432 sought to give some financial assistance on growing property taxes to those who’ve given so much of themselves to their country. Unfortunately, this session the Senate never followed suit.

The value of homes has risen dramatically. Senior citizens receive property tax relief in county taxes and it should be the same for veterans with 100-percent service-connected disability.

This measure won’t go away. I will continue to work to raise the bar on the combined disposable income for eligibility for 100-percent service-connected-disability to \$70,000. And I will seek to clarify in state law that the ‘disability income’ from the federal government no longer be considered as income for those who qualify for existing property tax exemptions based on age or disability.